

Cyngor Tref Caereinion Llanfair Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES JULY 2023

1.Introduction

This is a general update on the Council's activities and a report from the Town Clerk on activities and progress on projects. Weekly inspections of all the council's sites are completed and logged on the website under documents and inspections.

2.Financial

2.1 Management accounts

The management accounts up to 31st May 2023 have been issued to the Chair and Vice Chair. A full financial report will be given at the September 2023 council meeting. The bank balances are being reported to council at each meeting.

Any councillor wishes to see the accounts and paperwork should contact the Town Clerk who will make them available.

2.2.Audit

The audit papers have been prepared. The approvals by council as required by statute have been completed before 30th June 2023. The full Welsh Government Audit requires the papers to be submitted to them by 31st July 2023 and this will be done.

2.3.Annual return and annual report

The annual report has been agreed by council and will be submitted to the Welsh Government Auditors with the audit papers.

2.4 Grants

The current grant aid is as follows:

- i) £250 for a bird box scheme to support the Pied Flycatcher.
- ii) £7,000 for a trim trail (trust).
- lii) £9,950 for the Youth Club (for 2 years start up cost)

For the Autumn:

- i) Grant aid application for toilets refurbishment.

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Shared prosperity fund

The grant applications for feasibility studies from this fund have not been successful. Clarity is to be gained as to why Llanfair Caereinion has not been considered when the town was noted in the formal documents.

3. Governance

3.1 Standing Orders

The draft standing orders have been completed and are ready for discussion and approval by council. A date has been set of 24th July to do this. (thanks to Ursula for all her work on this one).

3.2 Documents review

The document review is now to take place on 24th July.

3.3 Training

The training plan (as required by law) has been completed. This is to be delivered in the autumn.

4. Mount Field (Trust)

4.1 Agreements

A Trust meeting to agree the final heads of terms for the agreements between Llanfair United Football Club and the Trust has been held. Solicitors will now be instructed to prepare the lease and licenses.

4.2 Top rail to high fence at Mount Road end of the site

The damaged top rail along the fence has been replaced.

4.3 Posts to high fence at the far end of the site

The works to replace two posts at this end of the site are being arranged.

5. Erw Ddwr

5.1 Tree works at Erw Ddwr

A tree report has been received and various minor works to trees will take place over the autumn period.

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6. Chapel of Rest

6.1 External

External painting is in reasonable order following some redecoartions and works to the soffits this year. Rubbish has been cleared from the store.

6.2 Chapel of Rest (electrics)

The electrics at the Chapel have been completed and an electrical certificate of safety issued.

6.3 Internal decoration

The internal walls and ceiling have not been redocrated for many years. It is proposed to complete redecoration of this during the current financial year.

6.4 Hedges

Hedges growing well, we are not allowed to cut them (except in a health and safety situation) until first week in September (bird nesting).

7. St Mary's Churchyard

7.1 Retaining wall behind the Institute

Retaining wall completed. Consideration on railings or fence along top due to drop from churchyard into the garden at the rear of the Institute to be given. The Institute is paying half the account.

7.2 Path

Investigations into the best way to repair the surfaces of the path from the West end gate to the Toilets have been completed. Powys County council has not responded to a request to repair.

7.3 Boundary wall along High Street/Broad Street

A specification is being prepared to gain an estimate for the repairs required to the wall along High Street and Broad Street. Works should be completed this year to stop any further deterioration.

7.4 Lychgate

The brick/stonework either side of the lychgate needs attention. A specification and estimate for the works are being gained. The timberwork on the remaining side of the structure is yet to be completed. The cross to be placed on the top of the structure is in the possession of the council.

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7.5 No dogs' signage

The no dog signs for all entrances have been put in place. There are still some dogs walked in the grounds, however there is no sign of any fouling.

7.6 Trees in churchyard

Some residents have made contact with the council regarding a Yew tree in the churchyard along the Bridge Street boundary. Advice is being sought regarding tree management of this tree from a professional.

7.7 Japanese knot-weed

A report from a resident locally has been received noting that Japanese Knotweed has been identified on the land of the Institute. Andrew Watkin has confirmed that he saw no knotweed when working there. The Institute has been informed.

8. Deri Woods/Goat Field

8.1 General maintenance

The general maintenance is progressing with the Friends of Deri Woods. They are working to an agreed plan which Council. The meadow is progressing and some tree thinning has been completed. No further trees are to be felled without the express approval of the council Deri Woods representatives via the Clerk.

8.2 Paths and drainage

Drainage of the lower path in Goat Field has been completed as part of the grant aided scheme. There is work required to the drainage from the top path to the bottom. Re-instatement of a path is to be completed at the same time. Bridgen to complete the works – an estimate will be required for approval.

8.3 Ash Die Back disease

The Ash trees affected are at the Llanfair end of Goat Field. There are around 15 trees to be felled. This work is to take place in early autumn. Council approval to the cost has been gained.

8.4 Bio-diversity plan

Tree planting is to be considered in the autumn along with the next stages of the woodland compartments.

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8.5 Leaky Dam

The leaky dam which used to be there has now ceased to be effective. The suggestion is that we replace the leaky dam to its former state. A decision on this needs to be made by end of first week in July. FODW with the wildlife trust are looking to do this work third week in July if approved.

8.6 Bridges

There is some work needed on the bridges with wire mesh failing. Thanks to Sam who pulled up the offending wire on one of her walks. Immediately after the face-book post pointing this out FODW were informed and materials have been received to repair same and the FODW are able to complete this. Cllr Rob Astley is visiting site to agreed finishes on the bridge. Work due to be completed soon.

9. Public Toilets

9.1 Electrics

The electrics at the toilets have been checked and an electrical certificate of safety issued.

9.2 Refurbishment and repair

A plan with grant aid is to be prepared for presentation to Council early in the autumn for redecoration and improvements to the disabled toilet as per the Town Plan action plan. Also included are baby changing facilities and a water bottle point.

9.3 Toilet grant aid (Powys County Council)

The £5,000 grant aid has been received for the year ending 31st March 2023.

10. Playgrounds

10.1 Glenafton Playground

No issues with the playground at present. Annual inspections to be completed by end of July 2023.

10.2 Trem Banwy playground (Powys County Council)

A meeting with Steve Gealey of Powys County Council has been asked for to seek a way forward for the restoration of the playground. To date this meeting is awaited. The Town Clerk will keep chasing to get same.

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11. Tennis Courts

11.1 Request for works.

A request for weeding and white lining has been received. The weeds and bush are being removed or cut back. White lining was considered adequate.

11.2 Meeting with tennis club

A meeting with the tennis club has been requested, awaiting date suggestions.

12. Street scene

12.1 Seating and bin (A483 & Bridge Street) Instructions to the contractor to complete works in autumn have been issued. Awaiting contractor to carry out works when he has a space.

12.2 Phone box Watergate Street

No success in finding a contractor willing to do the painting. Cllrs Rob Astley has visited site and confirmed that the box cannot be removed for painting. A contractor willing to the painting is still being sought.

13. Projects

13.1 Bus stops

The bus stop scheme is progressing. Posts sizes assessed along with timetable and flag fittings with Cllr Hazel Davies. Locations agreed are the railway station, lychgate, Erw Ddwr and Banwy Mill caravan park Melin y Ddol. Also new flags for Watergate Street. A timetable case at the top of Watergate Street. Posts are now going in and we are awaiting delivery of flags and timetable cases.

13.2 Tourism display boards

The English Town Trail leaflets have ended, new stock arrived. Designs for display boards continuing.

13.3 Town Wifi

All units installed around the town centre. Commissioning did take place on Monday 11th June.

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13.4 Trim trail (grant funded)

Quotes have been gained for the trim trail funded by Awards for All Wales in the sum of £7,000. (thanks Sam). A meeting of the Deri Woods Councillor team will meet soon to prepare a way forward for council approval including location and cost plan.

13.5 Pied Flycatcher bird box scheme

This project is funded by £250 grant. The bird boxes have been ordered and we are awaiting delivery.

14. Planning and development

14.1 Yellow Line Review

Powys County Council has confirmed that there is no planned action on the yellow line scheme in the short term.

14.2 Lorry traffic through town

Following a meeting held with Powys County Council and the wind farm development company regarding a possible solution to the town lorry traffic a further meeting is to be arranged for September.

14.3 Regeneration plan

The town plan is in place but a regeneration plan is required to plan a way forward to improve the town centre. A grant from the shared prosperity fund has not been forthcoming so an alternative funding route is needed. There as to have been a meeting with Powys County Council along with others some time ago. However, this meeting has not transpired.

14.4 The annual Town Plan

The annual town plan review is due to take place in September.

15. Youth

15.1 Youth Club

The Youth club commenced on 1st June and is running well. There are between 15 and 20 younger members and 5/6 older members. It is planned to run the club through the summer months. All are welcome to call in and see how it is all going. There is a need for a wifi connection, this could be done by using a dongle whilst we bottom out what is happening at the Cadet Hut.

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15.2 Youth Council

The Youth Council is in place.

15.3 Cadet hut

We are still trying to get a response from the Army Cadets, will keep trying.

16. Community Cafe

The Community Cafe is going well with an excess of income over costs of £320 – this has been banked on top of float monies kept. The pilot for 8 weeks will be the end on the last Friday in June 2023. The council has considered a report from the volunteers and will now await their wishes for the future before a final decision on how it progresses into the future is made.

17. Leisure Centre

The shared prosperity fund has not been forthcoming with any grant aid. Urgent discussions with Powys County Council over the leisure centre are now needed to seek a sustainable future of the centre.

18. Publicity

The Chronicle continues to be published both in paper form and on the website. The website is kept up to date and functions well.

19. Election boundaries

To note that the Westminster election boundaries for Montgomeryshire have been changed once again following pressure to leave the constituency intact. The new constituency is now planned to be the whole of Montgomeryshire along with a small part of Clwyd South (south of Wrexham).

R A Robinson
Town Clerk